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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/956,954

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For: Walter Etter

Title: NOISE COMPENSATION METHODS
AND SYSTEMS FOR INCREASING
THE CLARITY OF VOICE
COMMUNICATIONS

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Attorney Docket: Etter 4

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir/Madam:

Kindly correct page 17, paragraph 51 as follows:

a!

FIGS. 5-7 depict embodiments of the compressor gain unit 300 and limiter gain unit 500 shown in FIG. 3. More to the point, FIG. 5 depicts curves which may be used by the compressor and limiter gain units 300,500 to operate in an "output-bounded" mode while FIGS. 6-7 depict curves used by units 300,500 to operate in an "input-output-bounded" mode. Like the input-bounded mode illustrated in FIG. 4, the output-bounded mode shown in FIG. 5 comprises a curve ("AA") associated with a linear range a_4 and compression range a_5 and a curve ("BB") associated with a linear $[b_3]$ b_4 , compressor $[b_4]$ b_5 , and limiter range $[b_5]$ b_6 . Unlike the input-bounded mode, the output-bounded mode does not comprise a

a!
cont

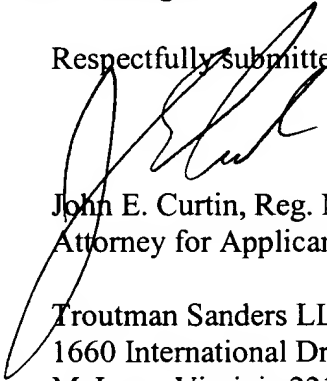
linear-limiter curve (curve C shown in FIG. 4). This means that companders operating in accordance with the curves in FIG. 5 are always adapted to operate in a compression range which results in a low amount of noise compensation in high-level noise conditions.

These corrections were made to conform the specification to FIG. 5. No new matter has been added. A clean copy of paragraph 51 is attached at the end of this Amendment.

No fee is believed to be due. However, in the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Deposit Account No. 501735** as required to correct the error.

Should there be any questions, please call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 21, 2001



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CLEAN COPY OF PARAGRAPH 51

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FIGS. 5-7 depict embodiments of the compressor gain unit 300 and limiter gain unit 500 shown in FIG. 3. More to the point, FIG. 5 depicts curves which may be used by the compressor and limiter gain units 300,500 to operate in an "output-bounded" mode while FIGS. 6-7 depict curves used by units 300,500 to operate in an "input-output-bounded" mode. Like the input-bounded mode illustrated in FIG. 4, the output-bounded mode shown in FIG. 5 comprises a curve ("AA") associated with a linear range a_4 and compression range a_5 and a curve ("BB") associated with a linear b_4 , compressor b_5 , and limiter range b_6 . Unlike the input-bounded mode, the output-bounded mode does not comprise a linear-limiter curve (curve C shown in FIG. 4). This means that companders operating in accordance with the curves in FIG. 5 are always adapted to operate in a compression range which results in a low amount of noise compensation in high-level noise conditions.